The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that they have taken up some of the major reforms like constitution of a Committee to suggest improvement in quality of education in government schools, constitution of Students Welfare Committees for every school under *Bhagidari* scheme and decentralization of powers. As reported, these reforms do not entail any extra expenditure.

Distance Education Courses for B.Ed

4730. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have banned Distance Education courses for B.Ed Degree, conducted by Kurukshetra and Annamalai Universities, pursued by non-working Graduates and if so, the reasons and the justification thereof; and

(b) whether Government are aware that some unrecognised institutions in a number of States are offering B.Ed courses privately and if so, the details thereof and what action is proposed to stop these illegal and unauthorised courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) The Annamalai University and Kurukshetra University have discontinued the B.Ed through distance mode from 1996-97 and 1997—99 respectively. These universities have not sought recognition from NCTE for B.Ed through distance mode.

(b) As per the NCTE Act, the qualification in teacher education obtained pursuant to a course or training in teacher education not recognised by NCTE shall not be treated as a valid qualification for purposes of employment under the Central Government, any State Government or University or in any School or College or Educational body aided by the Central Government or any State Government. NCTE issues public notices in newspapers from time to time advising the students desirous of joining a teacher education course to seek admission only to teacher education institutions recognised by NCTE.